

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/674,638

Examiner

Gay Ann Spahn

Applicant(s)

FOXWELL, ROBERT D.

Art Unit

3673

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Response filed on 26 January 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In the specification, on page 14, line 14, change the word "water" to --shore--.

(The examiner notes that this change has been made to provide consistent terminology throughout the specification and drawing figures. More particularly, see Fig. 1 wherein reference numeral 6 designates "water end" (specification, page 5, line 21) or "entry end" (specification, page 5, line 25) and reference numeral 35 designating a "cross brace" is clearly on the opposite end or shore end from water end 6).

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 1-18 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

independent claim 15 is allowable because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the combination of "Two or more cartons of unassembled components capable of convenient assembly to form a watercraft ramp, said unassembled components comprising: . . . (ii) components for forming at least six hull-support roller

Art Unit: 3673

assemblies capable of being mounted on said channel rails of said frame at any desired location along the length of said channel rails, comprising for each said hull-support assembly (A) a mounting bracket having . . . upright flanges for supporting at least one hull roller and at least one downward stabilizer flange adapted to be received within the slot of a said channel rail"; and

independent claim 17 is allowable because the prior art of record does not teach or suggest the combination of "Two or more cartons of unassembled components capable of convenient assembly to form a watercraft ramp, said unassembled components comprising: . . . (ii) components for forming at least six hull-support roller assemblies capable of being mounted on said channel rail sections of said frame at any desired location along the length of said channel rail sections, comprising for each said hull-support assembly (A) a mounting bracket having . . . upright flanges for supporting at least one hull roller and at least one downward stabilizer flange adapted to be received within the slot of a said channel rail section".

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Conclusion***

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. U.S. Patent No. 4,408,928 to Steinke discloses a connector

Art Unit: 3673

having bending means wherein a support bracket (40) has a stabilizer flange (43) which extends into a slot (35) of a channel rail (31, 32). U.S. Patent No. 5,737,801 to Flood discloses a channel member (10) having a caster wheel (31) in a mounting bracket (32), but does not disclose a stabilizer flange extending into the slot of the channel rail. U.S. Patent No. 6,572,057 to Roth discloses a hanger system for conduits and channel members. U.S. Patent No. 2,784,812 to Kindorf discloses a structural beam and connecting means including a transverse plate (15). U.S. Patent No. 6,592,291 to Foxwell discloses a boat ramp having hull-supporting roller assemblies (30). U.S. Patent No. 3,785,677 to Calkins discloses boat support for trailers having hull-supporting roller assemblies (18). U.S. Patent No. 3,842,998 to Borum discloses a boat trailer having hull-supporting roller assemblies (37, 39). U.S. Patent No. 3,888,367 to Cox discloses a boat trailer having hull-supporting roller assemblies (40). U.S. Patent No. 3,917,087 to Godbersen discloses boat supporting apparatus having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 1-4). U.S. Patent No. 4,453,881 to Cowley discloses a roller assembly (see Figs. 1 and 3). U.S. Patent No. 4,592,694 to Johnson discloses a modular boat trailer having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 1-5). U.S. Patent No. 4,781,515 to Johnson discloses a roller mounting system for a boat trailer having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 1-6). U.S. Patent No. 4,802,685 to Godbersen discloses a winch assembly for use with a boat trailer or the like having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 1-8). U.S. Patent No. 5,228,713 to Kovach discloses a boat transporting and launching trailer having a hull-supporting roller assembly (56). U.S. Patent No. 5,255,933 to Carrick discloses a weight distributing hull

Art Unit: 3673

and keel support for boat trailer frames having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 2-4). U.S. Patent No. 4,900,216 to Godbersen discloses a boat trailer hull support swivel roller coaster (see Figs. 1-4). U.S. Patent No. 4,911,459 to Smyly, Sr. discloses a launcher/retriever cradle for trailered boats having a hull-supporting roller assembly (see Fig. 3). U.S. Patent No. 4,900,051 to Godbersen discloses a boat trailer frame assembly having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 1-7). U.S. Patent No. 4,986,571 to Godbersen discloses a fender unit for use with a boat trailer or the like having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 1-8). U.S. Patent No. 5,066,033 to Kolstad et al. discloses a method and apparatus for launching a small boat using rope retention guide and having a hull-supporting roller assembly (see Fig. 3). U.S. Patent No. 2,887,203 to Baron discloses a load supporting member (see Fig. 1). U.S. Patent No. 2,889,946 to Holsclaw discloses a boat trailer having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 1-7). U.S. Patent No. 3,035,723 to Brosch discloses a boat centering device including hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 1-4). U.S. Patent No. 3,077,277 to Holzman discloses a boat trailer having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Figs. 1-7). U.S. Patent No. 3,104,770 to Calkins et al. discloses a boat trailer having hull-supporting roller assemblies (37, 38). U.S. Patent No. 5,316,329 to MacKarvich discloses a sliding boat trailer roller mount. U.S. Patent No. 5,951,231 to Allen discloses a vehicle roof rack and boat mounting system (see Fig. 10). U.S. Patent No. 6,116,176 to Jones discloses a drag reduction assembly for use with a boat hull. U.S. Patent No. 6,612,602 to MacKarvich discloses a boat trailer roller mount. U.S. Patent No. 2,531,770 to Ducharme discloses a multiple-roller bearing unit. U.S. Patent

Art Unit: 3673

No. 2,827,188 to Reeder discloses a boat trailer having hull-supporting roller assemblies (39, 40). U.S. Patent No. 2,860,792 to Nelson et al. discloses a boat trailer having hull-supporting roller assemblies (35, 36). U.S. Patent No. 3,117,683 to Kleppe discloses a boat trailer loading and supporting device. U.S. Patent No. 3,539,066 to Stevenson discloses a boat trailer and dock having hull-supporting roller assemblies (46, 50). U.S. Patent No. 3,547,285 to Plummer discloses hull-supporting roller assemblies (47). U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0078876 to Ockels discloses hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Fig. 9). U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0114668 to Legleux discloses apparatus for guiding the legs of a lift boat (see Figs. 3-4). U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0155748 to Picard et al. discloses a modular trailer system having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Fig. 6). U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0089213 to Godbersen discloses a load guide system for pleasure craft having hull-supporting roller assemblies (Figs. 10-11). U.S. Patent No. 4,482,268 to Stevenson et al. discloses a boat lift having a hull-supporting roller assembly (27, 28, 29, 30). U.S. Patent No. 5,213,443 to Hemperly et al. discloses a flexible windsurfing ramp having hull-supporting roller assemblies (see Fig. 7a).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gay Ann Spahn whose telephone number is (571)-272-7731. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 8:30 am to 7:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather C. Shackelford can be reached on (571)-272-7049. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

<sup>GAS</sup>  
Gay Ann Spahn, Patent Examiner  
May 16, 2005

  
HEATHER SHACKELFORD  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600